



ITS NEWS

Infant-Toddler Services

Kansas Department of Health
and Environment

JUNE, 2000

Summer Issue

A Few Requests	1
Infant-Toddler Services Spring Conference	1
Community Early Intervention Network Changes	2
July Regional Meetings	2
Signs of Disorganized Attachment	2
Sharing Information-How Comfortable Are We?	3
Play Groups	3
KDEC Mini Grant Awarded to Barton Co	4
CPSC, Manufacturers Recall Infant Products	4
Welcome to Kim Sykes	4
Parent Resource Website Launched	5
New Publications	5
CDC Spanish Website	5
Language Facilitation with Young Children	5
Trainings/Conferences	6
Donwlink Information	6

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ITS NEWS is offered to persons interested in early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. To submit articles or for information, write or call KDHE, Infant-Toddler Services, Landon State Office Building, 10th Floor, 900 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612-1220; (785) 296-6135. Reprinting of any articles should credit KDHE.

A Few Requests.....

from Carolyn Nelson

Thanks to all of you for completing and returning your grants so quickly. We are in the process of reviewing them. I anticipate that you will be receiving your approval letters, and/or requests for revisions this month.

I mentioned at the Spring Conference that I would like to initiate Infant-Toddler Coordinator meetings, if the Network Coordinators were receptive to this idea. I have received only positive/affirmative responses, so I would like to schedule the first meeting in late August or mid-September. Please review your calendars for possible meeting dates. We will decide on one when all, or most, of you can attend. Location will be in the middle of the State. Agenda suggestions are welcome. I want the time we spend together to be productive for everyone.

Several people have mentioned the logo (the butterfly/cat) that we use, and have asked about changing it. This is a 0-5 logo. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) has expressed an interest in forming a committee with Infant-Toddler Services and discussing the possibilities. Please be thinking about this committee and whether or not you would like to be a member; or maybe you feel that the logo should remain "as is". I will request your feedback at the Summer Regional meetings.

See you in July.

Infant-Toddler Services Spring Conference

by Joe Porting

The spring conference, "Providing Services for Young Children in Natural and Least Restrictive Environments", had over 300 people in attendance. The conference, which was sponsored by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas State Department of Education, had participants from a variety of fields including Part C, Part B, Head Start & Early Head Start, Health Care, Parents as Teachers, Child Care Providers, and Parents. Mary Beth Bruder, the Keynote Speaker, did a wonderful job of addressing the topic and, according to the evaluations, was well received.

The afternoon of the conference was made up of breakout sessions. The topics of the sessions included successful transitions, providing early intervention and special education in child care settings, assistive technology, identifying natural routines, funding and finance, including families in the process, writing collaborative agreements, and addressing health needs of the child. The evaluations for the breakout sessions were also very positive.

Thank you to all the speakers, facilitators, planning committee members and conference participants for making the spring conference a huge success.

If anyone would like specific information regarding the spring conference, please call Joe Porting at (785) 296-8625 or (800) 332-6262.



Community Early Intervention Network Changes

This section of *ITS NEWS* is intended to help keep readers abreast of Network changes that come to the attention of our office. Please contact Diane Alexander, (785) 296-6135, to report changes as they occur.

Email for Linda Brown, Children & Families Network:
lbrown@gcnet.com

E-mail for Mary Beasley, Sumner County ICC:
beasleym@gateway.net

Ginger Gearheart, Wyandotte County Infant-Toddler Services, has a new telephone number: (913) 627-5626.

New address & info for Harvey County:
Harvey County Infant Toddler Program
Special Education Cooperative
725 Main
Newton, KS 67114
Sherri Buss, Director
(316) 284-6580 FAX: (316)
284-6589
E-mail: sbuss@newton.k12.ks.us

July Regional Meetings

Autism services and treatment strategies will be the main topic of the July regional meetings. Dr. Matthew Reese and Ms. Deborah Daniels will present information on providing services to children with autism under age 3. Their presentation will be followed by a discussion regarding how Networks put services together to meet the needs of these children and families. The meetings have been scheduled as follows:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| July 13- | Holton, KS
Trinity Lutheran Church (Fellowship Hall)
401 Cheyenne Drive (on Hiway16) |
| July 19- | McPherson, KS
Bank of America
5 th Floor
122 West Marlin |
| July 20- | Garden City, KS
Russell Child Development Center
714 Ballinger |

The regional meetings start at 9:30 a.m. and finish at 2:00 p.m. These meetings are open to service providers, parents, program administrators, and anyone else interested in early intervention services in Kansas. **Please RSVP:** call Nancy Carlson at (785) 296-6761 or Joe Johnson at (800) 332-6262 by July 6.

Look For the Signs of Disorganized

Attachment

Source: *Early Childhood Report*. Volume 11, Issue 4. April 2000

How can you know for sure if an infant or toddler in your care is experiencing disorganized attachment? Look for these symptoms and indicators that the child's well-being may be at risk:

- Infant or toddler is experiencing multiple caregivers (divorce situation, living with different family members, living in foster care with supervised parental visits, spending too much time in child care).
- There are no signs of differentiated attachment. By the age of 12 months, the baby is still going willingly to whomever will take him. The infant shows no specific attachment to parents, and doesn't acknowledge parent's return or notice their departure.
- Infant or toddler has prolonged unusually intense reactions to separation and/or seems unusually angry, rejecting or behaving in a strange manner when a parent returns. The pattern continues for more than a few weeks.
- Home visitors, teachers or child care providers observe situations that seem to point to mental health problems for the parent, child or relationship; for example, domestic violence, depression, substance abuse, attachment problems, inappropriate emotions or communications, sleeping, crying or eating problems.
- The baby is taken frequently to the emergency room for concerns.
- There are signs of maltreatment indicating abuse or neglect (must be reported immediately to the child protective agency).
- Parents talk openly about wanting help for a variety of life circumstances or feelings.
- Parent is not responding to staff's help in responding sensitively and appropriately to their baby.
- Family has experienced a trauma (death, accident, crime, loss, etc.)

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**Sharing of Information-
How Comfortable Are We?**

by Joe Porting & Nancy Scott

Infant-Toddler Services (ITS) is a comprehensive, statewide system of community-based, family-centered services for young children and their families, and is designed to assist families in meeting the developmental needs of their infants and toddlers (ages 0-3) who have developmental delays or disabilities. The Disability and Health Program (DHP) works to identify and prevent or minimize the impact of secondary conditions on the health of people with disabilities in Kansas.

To assist with program administration and implementation, ITS and the DHP collaborated in the development of focus groups to identify what type of information parents of children with disabilities and adults with disabilities would feel comfortable sharing with service providers, what information they consider confidential, and what information and in what circumstances would they feel comfortable sharing information with the State through service provider data systems.

Community-based disability agencies were asked to suggest and invite people who:

- ▶ are able to speak in front of a group;
- ▶ are able to speak from the community level about the issues;
- ▶ are able to speak from a personal level about the issues;
- ▶ represent the cultural diversity of the community;
- ▶ are of different education and socioeconomic backgrounds;
- ▶ represent a variety of disabilities and needs;
- ▶ are the parents of a child with a disability or who have a disability themselves.

The group process was to share who ITS and DHP are, and what the program's would do with the information the participants shared with us, to ask several questions of the group in round-robin style, and to record the responses on a flip chart to assure accuracy of the ideas shared by the participants. Finally, demographic questions were to be asked to ensure that the groups represented the diversity found in the Kansas communities.

The questions asked of the participants:

What information do you feel comfortable sharing with service providers about yourself or your child?

What information would you not want to share with service providers about yourself or your child?

What information do you feel comfortable sharing, or having your provider share with KDHE about you or your child?

Results from the focus groups indicated that everyone was willing to share information (e.g., financial records, life insurance, etc.) as long as the information requested was pertinent and relevant to getting services they perceive as beneficial. Focus group participants had a negative perception of SRS, mostly at the local level. However, they praised services that they didn't realize were being

administered by SRS (e.g., Health Wave). Participants shared information more readily if it was a community person that they knew and trusted who requested the information. Parents of children with disabilities seemed more willing to share information about their children than adults with disabilities were to share information about themselves. They both seemed reticent about sharing information that could hurt them in the future.

The focus groups were held in Concordia, Winfield, Wichita, and Garden City. They were co-facilitated by Nancy Scott with the Office of Disability Prevention, and Joe Porting with Infant-Toddler Services.

Play Groups

by Mary K. Rupe

The Sunflower Early Education Center is the Network provider for 5 counties located in the central part of the state: Barton, Rice, Stafford, Pawnee, and part of Rush. In this Network, the Early Education Center Infant-Toddler program works closely with different interagency coordinating councils and many different agencies to provide services.

The Early Education Center has, for the past eight years, coordinated a Play Group with the Hispanic population in a small community setting. This has been a positive way to reach, interact and support families.

This past year, in order to promote a more natural environment, the Early Education Center initiated play groups in each of the counties served with Parents as Teachers and with existing play groups within the community. Attendance is open to all community members. Articles in the local papers, flyers, newsletters among participating agencies, through day care providers, as well as by word of mouth, were utilized to get the word out. Attendance has been increasing and transportation is available upon request.

Teachers and Paras develop lesson plans, activities and materials based on monthly themes. Children, along with parents, experience painting, gluing, gross and fine motor activities, storytelling, and songs, in gaining meaningful experience in floor time activities. Children quickly learn what's in the "song bag".

Community screens were coordinated along with the play-groups by the Early Education Center in the summer months. Discussion by parents is that they would like to see play groups provided on a weekly basis.

KDEC Mini Grant Awarded to Barton County ICC

by Mary K. Rupe

Early Awakenings Barton County ICC has worked hard to present a Basic Parenting Class supported by a KDEC mini grant this past year. Each agency sent staff to be trained in the Basic Parenting Class through Kansas State University. The mini grant funds were used to provide hands on materials to the parents, door prizes, and reimbursement for child care. Surveys from the parents were overwhelmingly positive; each parent felt that useful information was gained and parents would recommend the program to others. Parenting classes are to be scheduled again for the fall. Agencies participating in the classes were: Helping Hands Preschool, Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Barton County Extension, and the Early Education Center.

Professional Development Initiative

The Barton County ICC is a recipient of an \$1,800 Professional Development Initiative Community Collaboration Project grant. The funds will be used to develop awareness for need of quality child care education. The ICC will receive books and video materials for a resource library and is anticipating having a well known speaker, Carol Scott, to address the importance of early brain development to child care providers and educators as well as local medical personnel. Tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2000, the presentation will cover a two day period.

Early Head Start Grant

The Barton County ICC and the Pawnee County ICC, as well as many community partners, supported Central Kansas Head Start in working to submit an Early Head Start Grant due May 1, 2000. The Early Head Start grant would provide a coordination of services to children and mothers in these counties.

Welcome to Kim Sykes

by Lori Michel

We welcome Kim Sykes, M.A., to the Children's Developmental Services Section of the Bureau for Children, Youth and Families at KDHE. Kim is an audiologist, and is coordinator of the Newborn Hearing Screening Program, "Sound Beginnings." She will be working with hospitals as they implement newborn hearing screening, and following those newborns who are referred for further hearing testing. A *Healthy People 2010* goal is to confirm hearing loss in infants by three months of age, with appropriate early intervention services by six months of age. National data sets include identifying progressive and late-onset hearing loss in children through age seven. Kim has already attended a "Sound Beginnings" Early Intervention Task Force meeting that is developing a Resource Guide for families of infants who are deaf/hard of hearing.

CPSC, Manufacturers Recall Infant Products

A leading maker of infant products is recalling 7 million swings after reports of six deaths that occurred mostly due to malfunctions that were the result of missing parts.

Graco Children's Products recalled the swings, all made before November 1977, out of concern for missing parts on these swings, particularly when parents pick them up second hand. By that time, some have parts missing, and an infant can slide down the swing seats and become entangled in the restraints, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) said.

In addition to six deaths, CPSC has found 181 reports of infants falling from the swings, which are battery powered and available in either an A-frame or open top design.

Graco is providing new, free safety restraints to upgrade the product. For more information, contact Graco at (800) 934-9082, visit the company Web site at <http://www.gracobaby.com> or write to Customer Affairs, Graco Children's Products, P.O. Box 100, Elverson, PA 19520.

Other Recalls

CPSC also recently announced the recall of two Fisher-Price products, 3-in-1 Cradle Swings and Bounce 'n Play Activity Domes. The cradle swing can be used as a carrier, but the handle can release unexpectedly, causing children to fall out. The problem has resulted in at least 10 injuries, the commission said.

The activity dome is a portable play space, but problems with nylon bands can pose a suffocation hazard, the commission said. The company received 28 reports of detached nylon bands that caused the dome to tilt, though no injuries have been reported. Fisher-Price has a free repair kit available.

For more information about the recall, contact Fisher-Price at (800) 505-0600 or visit the company's Web site at <http://www.fisher-price.com>.

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Parent Resource Website Launched by Federal Government

The U. S. Department of Education just announced a new website, www.fed-icc.org, which will offer parents of children birth through five years of age who have disabilities, access to disability-related information and contacts. The website will also include information that will be helpful for states and government agencies.

This website will focus on the efforts of the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council (FICC), as they facilitate federal, state, and local activities related to serving the birth through age five population who receive services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), as well as other federally funded programs such as health care, child care, and social services.

Through this site, names and numbers of people throughout the government who can help answer questions about children and disability issues can be accessed. Parents can also contact and communicate with FICC parent-member representatives.

For states, the site showcases current federal efforts that impact state programs. States can also use this site as a forum through which to share issues of importance with council representatives.

Information received from Joan Danaher, Associate Director, National Early Childhood Technical Assistance System (NECTAS) 6/9/00.

New Publications

Woodbine House will be releasing two new publications in June that could be helpful to you and some of your families. They are:

Children With Fragile X Syndrome: A Parent's Guide. It covers diagnosis, parental emotions, therapies, medications, development, early intervention, education, daily care, legal rights and advocacy.

Children with Autism: A Parent's Guide. This is their revised second edition. It covers "special concerns, including daily and family life, early intervention, educational programs, legal rights, advocacy, and a look at the years ahead with a chapter on adults with autism." The book also covers current diagnostic criteria, Applied Behavior Analysis, and "PDD spectrum awareness".

The representative at Woodbine House assured us that these books cover birth-to-age-8 issues. To order, call (301) 897-3570, or toll free, (800) 843-7323, or visit their website at www.woodbinehouse.com for information.

CDC Spanish Website

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has launched its Spanish language website at <http://www.cdc.gov/spanish>. The Spanish language website is not a translation of the English language website but is specifically tailored to Hispanic and Latino populations. The site will grow as CDC plans to translate more of its articles, press releases and other documents into Spanish and make them available at this site. Currently, Spanish speakers will find information that CDC has developed on a wide variety of health topics from asthma to diabetes. In addition, Spanish speakers will find gateways to health information produced by CDC's sister Federal agencies.

Language Facilitation with Young Children

Source: Kevin Cole PhD, Washington Research Institute

Washington Research Institute (WRI) has an outreach Project to make videotapes and written materials available that help staff show parents how to encourage their kids to talk.

Each set includes two 20-minute videotapes and a manual for conducting parent workshops and inservice education for teachers and paraeducators, including handouts, resource lists, and other supporting materials. The materials have been shown to be effective with children with disabilities, including children from diverse cultural groups.

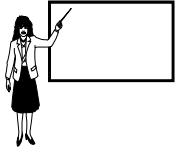
One video in the set shows how to use books to encourage language in young children, and one video teaches how to use play to get kids to talk. The target developmental age is birth to four years. The sets are available now in English and in Spanish. Korean and Vietnamese will be available next.

The sets cost \$95 to develop, and are distributed at cost. You are encouraged to preview them if you like. Unlimited copying is encouraged, as long as the copies aren't sold. So, if you want to make copies for preservice or inservice classes, for inclusion in other training projects, or for other not-for-profit activities, you are encouraged to do that.

If your organization can't afford \$95, contact WRI who will try to put you in touch with a group in your area that already has a copy. Or you can split the cost with other agencies and jointly make copies. WRI will also mail you a set to copy and return to WRI if you pay the postage. Eventually, WRI hopes to put the videos on the internet so they can just be downloaded. Some sites may also be eligible for free on-site training and materials.

Please see the WRI web site for more information: www.wri-edu.org/bookplay

For questions please contact: Kevin Cole, Ph.D.; Senior Researcher; Washington Research Institute; 150 Nickerson St., Suite 305; Seattle, WA 98109; Phone: (209) 285-1523.



Trainings/Conferences

KITS Seventh Annual Summer Institute 2000: Brain Research and its Implications for Intervention in Natural & Least Restrictive Settings. June 20-

23. Wichita State University. Contact Misty Goosen, KITS, 1052 Dole, Lawrence, KS 66045; (785) 864-0725; fax: (785) 864-5323.

Deafblind Summer Seminars. Seminar I - June 22-24; Seminar II - July 20-22. University of Kansas Edwards Campus, Regents Center, Overland Park. Contact: Judy Conley, (913) 588-5750 or jconley@kumc.edu

Infant-Toddler Services Summer Regional Meetings. July 13- Holton, July 19 - McPherson, July 20 - Garden City. See page 2.

Visions for the 21st Century- National Down Syndrome Society National Conference, July 27-29, 2000- Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington, D. C. For information call NDSS at (800) 221-4602.

Teaching Communication Skills to Children with Autism or Other Developmental Disabilities, September 22-23, 2000 - The Conference Center at BTA, 12411 Wornall RD. Kansas City, MO. For information call (913) 897-1004.

Downlink Information

NUTRITION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS IN MANAGED CARE USING TELECOMMUNICATION

Thursday, September 28, 2000, 2-4 p.m.

Nutrition Indevelopmental Disorders and Managed Care
-Presiding: Jane Garvin, MS, RD, LD

- ▶ Donald Berwanger, DDS, MSPH, Assistant Medical Director Manage Care Organization, Garden Grove, CA
- ▶ Brenda Lucas, BS, Bureau of Consumer Program Support, Section Chief for Community Education and Outreach, Ohio Department of Human Services, Medicaid. Columbus, OH
- ▶ Donna Skoda, MS, RD, LD, Program Manager, Nutrition Services, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cleveland, OH.

Seizure Disorders - Presiding; Shirley Ekvall, Ph.D, RD, FAAMD, Chief of Nutrition, UACCDD, Professor, University of Cincinnati

- ▶ Donald Gilbert, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Neurology, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
- ▶ Kathy Santora, Master of MEd. RD, Clinical Dietitian, Children Hospital Medical Center

Sites are dependent upon expressed interest, cost dependent on number of sites.

Contact: Sandy Perkins, MS, RD/LD, Maternal and Child Nutrition Consultant, phone: (785) 296-1323; fax::(785) 296-1326; e-mail: sperkins@kdhe.state.ks.us